

Application Serial No. 10/674,193
Reply to Office Action of October 21, 2001

PATENT
Docket: CU-3381

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated October 21, 2005, the Examiner states that Claims 1-14 are pending and Claims 1-14 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicants amend the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Those claims have been cancelled.

In the Office Action, Claims 2 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mandel (US 5,123,895). Claims 2-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuya (JP 9-188456). The Applicants consider the amendment to the claims overcome by these rejections.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to include the feature that the first and second guide units are disposed so that "the image receiving paper is fed into the second guide unit with the image receiving paper being bent opposite to a direction of curling of the image receiving layer". Support for this feature is disclosed in the specification and shown in Figures 1A and 1B. Claim 3 has been amended to include the features recited in Claim 1.

According to the configuration set forth in amended Claims 2 and 13, the paper can be previously bent opposite to a direction of curling of the paper before reaching the corner between the upstream and downstream straightening guide regions, thereby allowing the paper to be easily and deeply bent at that corner. Therefore it is possible to make the paper smoothly pass the two guide regions and to lower the resistance against the bending operation on the paper.

On the contrary, as illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 of US 5,123,895, and FIG. 3 of JP 9-188456, these features are not disclosed in the prior art. Therefore, the Applicants consider that the subject matter defined in Claims 2 and 13 are novel and involve an inventive step in comparison with the prior art, as well as Claims 3-12 depending thereon.

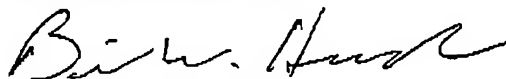
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Separate from this amendment, the Applicants are submitting an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). The Applicants request that those references be considered and an initialed copy of PTO Form 1449 be returned with the next Official Communication.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicants respectfully submit that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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